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BILL CORDASCO
BABBITT RANCHES, LLC
P.O. BOX 520
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86002

Dear Bill:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Moqui Allotment during the 2010 grazing season. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as indicated in part three of your permit.

1. Season of Use and Numbers to be Grazed

Your 2010 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

392 Adult Cows from May 7 to October 21, 2010 (168 days)

2. Pasture Sequence

The following is the pasture grazing sequence for the 2010 grazing season:

Pasture Name	Dates	Number of Days
Peterson	5/7 – 7/1	56
Harbison	7/2 – 8/26	56
Corbett	8/27 – 10/21	56

These pasture Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are estimates, subject to adaptive management. Forage conditions are variable across each allotment and they may change in response to seasonal precipitation and temperature patterns. It may be necessary to change the pasture rotation or the number of days in each pasture. However, it is important for both the Permittee and the Forest Service to notify each other promptly if it appears that changes to this schedule may be necessary. The primary factors that we will be using to adjust this schedule will include: forage production, Grazing Intensity during the grazing season, Utilization at the end of the growing season, water availability, and livestock distribution. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

Livestock are to be actively herded from one pasture to the other. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure that all livestock are removed from each pasture within 5 days of the scheduled off date. If the Permittee cannot meet this time frame, the Permittee must contact the Forest Service before this period has expired to request an extension. Without this extension, allowing livestock to remain in a pasture after the pasture off date is a permit violation.



During drought periods, livestock will have to rotate through pastures more quickly and/or come off the allotment earlier than planned. The Permittee and/or the Forest Service will measure Grazing Intensity at key areas within each pasture during each Grazing Period. When the average Grazing Intensity across all key areas within a pasture reaches the Allowable Use Standard, livestock will be moved immediately.

3. Range Improvements

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (amended December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance.

Maintenance of Range Improvements –

Range improvements assigned to you need to be inspected and the problems found corrected on a yearly basis. All fences must be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

The Forest Service will not provide any material for routine maintenance. The Permittee may request a Forest Products Free Use Permit in order to cut juniper fence posts and stays for use only on their Forest Service allotment. No tree cutting is allowed without a forest products permit.

Hazard trees may need to be cut to prevent them from falling on fences. However, no tree cutting may be conducted without specific written permission from the Forest Service.

Maintenance projects planned:

The FS will burn slash within the Moqui Grassland Project within the next several years. The FS is offering fuelwood permits in that area in the meantime.

Construction of New Range Improvements --

All new construction must conform to the standards specified by your district grazing permit administrator.

When the funds are available, the Forest Service will contribute materials or labor to cover one half of the cost of installing new range improvements.

New range improvement projects planned in 2010+:

No new range improvements are currently planned for 2010. The permittee would like to do more grassland and savannah restoration (i.e. juniper removal) on the allotment sometime in the future. Part of the Moqui Allotment was partially analyzed by the FS in the South Zone Grassland Restoration Project in 2006. The FS may be able to include this area in a new NEPA project in FY 2011 or 2012. The permittee may hire a NEPA contractor in order to expedite the process, if desired.

4. **Livestock Distribution**

Grazing Intensity will be more uniform across the pasture if livestock are well distributed. Distribution aids include: water hauls, waterlot control, salt and supplement stations, and herding. Livestock may remain in each pasture during the entire permitted use period if Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Allowable Use Standard throughout the pasture. If the Allowable Use Standard is exceeded in one area of the pasture because you don't move your animals from a preferred location, then livestock must be moved to the next pasture in the rotation or off the allotment. Areas exempt from this requirement are lands within ¼ mile of permanent water sources that are not fenced.

The following requirements apply to portable water hauling:

- a) Coordinate with your district grazing permit administrator at your annual validation meeting or prior to the Grazing Period to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures.
- b) Provide wildlife escape ramps in all water troughs and open metal storage tanks. The Kaibab National Forest is in the process of acquiring ramps and should be able to provide each Permittees with at least one escape ramp.
- c) Remove portable haul water storage tanks and troughs when livestock leave the pasture.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt and supplements:

- a) Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- b) Remove the salt and supplements when the livestock leave the pasture.

Place portable water troughs and salt/supplement stations in these locations:

- a) At least ¼ mile away from permanent water
- b) Areas of light forage Utilization. Move the water or salt/supplement when the Allowable Use Standard has been met.
- c) Different sites than were used last year
- d) On soils that are not fragile or eroding
- e) On sites that are not in wetlands or drainages
- f) On sites that do not have populations of rare plants, if known

Gates in waterlot fences will be left open for wildlife, unless closed on a temporary basis to facilitate cattle distribution in the pasture.

5. Drought Management

Leaving an adequate amount of residual vegetation after grazing is always important in order to maintain or improve rangeland health, but it is especially important during and after droughts. Residual vegetation provides cover and litter that improve soil stability and fertility. It also improves water infiltration and soil moisture content. Plant and litter cover moderate the microclimate which improves seedling germination and survival. Leaving at least 50% of the plant canopy allows the plant to build healthy roots, set seed, and survive the drought. Residual vegetation provides forage and cover for wildlife.

As always, Permittees are strongly encouraged to reduce the number of animals stocked during droughts. Allowable Use Standards will be met much earlier in each pasture during the Grazing Period if the drought continues and only a minimal amount of forage is produced. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers, it is likely that livestock will have to move through the pastures more quickly and be removed from the allotment at an earlier date because carrying capacity (i.e. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced during a drought.

6. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

Allowable Use Standards for the allotment are set in the 2006 Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The AMP follows direction described within the 2004 Decision Notice and 2004 Environmental Assessment for the allotment.

The Allowable Use Standards for the Moqui Allotment are 30% in the grassland key areas. Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment when use reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity. Utilization is limited to 20% in Northern Goshawk habitat. Livestock must be moved when use reaches Light Grazing Intensity in these areas. A map of Northern Goshawk habitat on the allotment will be provided.

Northern Goshawk habitat (territory or home range) is found in the northern part of the Peterson Pasture.

Management requirements for the Northern Goshawk require that forage and habitat be maintained in a healthy condition for owl and goshawk prey species which are small mammals and various birds. Such conditions are generally met if forage utilization in forested areas and the small meadows under 200 feet in width does not exceed 40% and averages 20%. The permittee will take action so livestock grazing does not exceed these use levels. Actions may include: salt placement, water control, and herding or riding. If continued forage use above desired levels occurs, adjustments in the Allotment Management Plan, stocking level, or other management or administrative actions may be necessary.

Allowable Use Standards must not be exceeded in key areas of the allotment. Key areas are identified as areas that have easy access for livestock, are close to watering points (1/4 to 1 mile away), and have desirable species composition and vigor for the specific area. The location of key areas for forage Grazing Intensity and Percent Forage Utilization monitoring and key forage species should be discussed with your district grazing permit administrator.

Grazing Intensity during the grazing season and Percent Forage Utilization at the end of the growing season within each pasture will be closely monitored by the Permittee and by the Forest Service. This monitoring may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Pasture Sequence and may ultimately require an early exit from the allotment.

7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

All Permittees can estimate Grazing Intensity by observation in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. Grazing Intensity should be estimated in key areas that are located at least ¼ mile away from water or salt/supplement stations. The Permittee may make estimates in several key areas within each pasture where livestock spend the most time. Make estimates on your key forage species, i.e. common palatable species.

All Permittees are encouraged to keep records of Grazing Use and Intensity in each pasture and submit them to their district grazing permit administrator in the middle and at the end of the permitted Grazing Period. Data to collect include:

- pasture name
- dates of actual use
- type and class of livestock
- number of livestock
- approximate location of key area
- Grazing Intensity class
- date of observation

Other notes may be recorded, such as precipitation records or observations. A form is attached to this AOI.

If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training on an individual or group basis.

8. Fire

Be careful with campfires and branding fires. Pile burning is not permitted.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special restrictions. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, vehicles, ATVs, and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land.

Cooperation in the prevention and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Section 10 of General Provision and Requirements, page 2, of your Term Grazing Permit.

9. Motor Vehicle Restrictions

If you need to enter a motor vehicle restricted area, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your Annual Operating Instructions. Entering a restricted area without authorization is a violation of 36 CFR 261.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Natural Resource Specialist Karlynn Huling at 635-5621, khuling@fs.fed.us, or FAX at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angela D. Parker
ANGELA D. PARKER
District Ranger

cc: Elizabeth M Otero

GRAZING INTENSITY MONITORING RECORD

Allotment: _____ Pasture: _____

Data Collector: _____ Permittee: _____

Dates of Actual Use: _____

Type and Class of Livestock: _____

Number of Livestock: _____

KEY AREA NAME & LOCATION	MONITORING DATE	GRAZING INTENSITY CLASS
<i>Example – Kaibab Flat, ~½ mile NE of Empty Tank, NW ¼ of Section 28, 200' from Rd. 15</i>	<i>Example – June 5, 2007</i>	<i>Example – Moderate</i>

Grazing Intensity Choices: Light, Conservative, Moderate, Heavy, Severe

Precipitation Records:

Notes:
